

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 10, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 19, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 26, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 3, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1563

**Introduced by Senator Escutia
(Coauthor: Senator Soto)**

February 23, 2006

An act to amend Section 60641 of, and to add Sections 78213.5; 78213.7; and 78213.8 to, the Education Code, relating to community colleges.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1563, as amended, Escutia. Community colleges: Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

Existing law establishes the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as one of the segments of postsecondary education in this state. Existing law establishes community college districts throughout the state, and authorizes those districts to provide instruction to students at community college campuses.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to, among other things, the rates at which students who enroll in community colleges as freshmen return for a second year of college.

The bill would express legislative intent to enact legislation to establish a Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for college transfer level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate the skills of these pupils to a level commensurate with college transfer level English and mathematics.

The bill would establish the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program, ~~until January 1, 2012 for 5 years~~, for the purpose of providing high school pupils with an indicator of their readiness for college transfer level English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their skills to a level expected of first-time community college freshman students. The bill would require the program to be administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

~~The bill would establish the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) as an independent research body whose work is aimed at improving student transition from one educational segment to the next and ensuring that students are prepared to succeed at each level of education. The bill would require the board of governors to oversee the efforts of Cal-PASS through annual evaluations of the finances, expenditures, and activities of Cal-PASS.~~

The bill would provide that community colleges, along with their feeder high schools, shall be eligible to participate in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program. The bill would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to select the participating community colleges and high schools from districts applying to the program and agreeing to meet the requirements established for participation in the program. The bill would require the chancellor, in making these selections, to give priority to colleges and schools from districts that are currently working with, or utilizing, Cal-PASS data. The bill would specify requirements to be met by participating community colleges and high schools.

The bill would require the board of governors, to the extent that funding is provided specifically for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or another statute, to provide a stipend to each participating community college and high school. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that this stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all

costs incurred by up to 25 community colleges and their respective feeder high schools under the program.

The bill would require the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, from funds provided in the annual Budget Act for this purpose, to contract with a ~~community college district~~ *entity deemed by the chancellor to be reputable, independent, and competent* to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The bill would require this ~~district~~ *entity* to submit a final evaluation report, *including answers to specified questions*, to the Legislature, *the Superintendent of Public Instruction*, and the Governor on or before ~~June 30, 2011~~ *December 1, 2012*. The bill would require the Office of the Legislative Analyst to review the final report, and, on or before ~~August 31, 2011~~ *February 1, 2013*, to make recommendations regarding whether the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program should be continued, modified, expanded, or discontinued.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) In California and throughout the nation, an increasing
- 4 number of jobs require some education beyond high school to
- 5 meet the challenges of a growing, knowledge-based global
- 6 economy. Of the students who seek a postsecondary education in
- 7 California, 62 percent attend a community college. Current data
- 8 show that many of these students do not complete a degree,
- 9 certificate, or transfer program.
- 10 (2) More than 50 percent of incoming students of the
- 11 California Community Colleges require remediation or basic
- 12 skills development in order to complete college level work. This
- 13 is a critical factor determining student success in achieving
- 14 educational objectives.
- 15 (3) There is a need for greater coordination and course
- 16 articulation between community colleges and high schools to
- 17 create smooth pathways into, and the successful completion of,
- 18 community college programs.
- 19 (4) Early assessment is a diagnostic tool and a fundamental
- 20 means for improving student preparation for, and success in,

1 community college. Early assessment must be part of a larger set
2 of aligned activities, so students may fully benefit from every
3 step in their educational career.

4 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to enact
5 legislation to establish a Community College Early Assessment
6 Pilot Program for the purpose of providing high school pupils
7 with an indicator of their readiness for ~~college transfer~~ level
8 English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing
9 high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate the skills
10 of these pupils to a level commensurate with ~~college-level~~
11 ~~transfer level~~ English and mathematics.

12 (c) It is also the intent of the Legislature that this program help
13 ~~pupils to begin to earn English and mathematics college credit~~
14 ~~immediately upon enrollment in a community college.~~ *pupils*
15 *become better prepared for college.*

16 (d) It is also the intent of the Legislature that this program
17 work, to the extent possible, in coordination with the ~~California~~
18 ~~State University's Early Assessment Program.~~ *Standardized*
19 *Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program of the State Department*
20 *of Education and the Early Assessment Program of the*
21 *California State University.*

22 (e) *It is also the intent of the Legislature that the Community*
23 *College Early Assessment Pilot Program not affect the statutory*
24 *reporting requirements of the STAR Program or increase the*
25 *costs of either the STAR program or the State Department of*
26 *Education.*

27 SEC. 2. Section 60641 of the Education Code is amended to
28 read:

29 60641. (a) The department shall ensure that school districts
30 comply with each of the following requirements:

31 (1) The achievement test designated pursuant to Section 60642
32 and the standards-based achievement test provided for in Section
33 60642.5 are scheduled to be administered to all pupils during the
34 period prescribed in subdivision (b) of Section 60640.

35 (2) The individual results of each pupil test administered
36 pursuant to Section 60640 shall be reported, in writing, to the
37 pupil's parent or guardian. The written report shall include a
38 clear explanation of the purpose of the test, the pupil's score, and
39 its intended use by the school district. This subdivision does not

1 require teachers or other school district personnel to prepare
2 individualized explanations of each pupil's test score.

3 (3) (A) The individual results of each pupil test administered
4 pursuant to Section 60640 shall also be reported to the pupil's
5 school and teachers. The school district shall include the pupil's
6 test results in his or her pupil records. However, except as
7 provided in this section, individual pupil test results may only be
8 released with the permission of either the pupil's parent or
9 guardian if the pupil is a minor, or the pupil if the pupil has
10 reached the age of majority or is emancipated.

11 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a pupil or his or her
12 parent or guardian may authorize the release of individual pupil
13 results to a postsecondary educational institution for the purpose
14 of credit, placement, assessment of ~~college readiness~~, or
15 admission.

16 (4) The districtwide, school-level, and grade-level results of
17 the STAR Program in each of the grades designated pursuant to
18 Section 60640, but not the score or relative position of any
19 individually ascertainable pupil, shall be reported to the
20 governing board of the school district at a regularly scheduled
21 meeting, and the countywide, school-level, and grade-level
22 results for classes and programs under the jurisdiction of the
23 county office of education shall be similarly reported to the
24 county board of education at a regularly scheduled meeting.

25 (b) The publisher designated pursuant to Section 60642 and
26 the publisher of the standards-based achievement tests provided
27 for in Section 60642.5 shall make the individual pupil, grade,
28 school, school district, and state results available to the
29 department pursuant to paragraph (9) of subdivision (a) of
30 Section 60643 by August 8 of each year in which the
31 achievement test is administered for those schools for which the
32 last day of test administration, including makeup days, is on or
33 before June 25. The department shall make the grade, school,
34 school district, and state results available on the Internet by
35 August 15 of each year in which the achievement test is
36 administered for those schools for which the last day of test
37 administration, including makeup days, is on or before June 25.

38 (c) The department shall take all reasonable steps to ensure
39 that the results of the test for all pupils who take the test by June

1 25 are made available on the Internet by August 15, as set forth
2 in subdivision (b).

3 (d) The department shall ensure that a California Standards
4 Test that is augmented for the purpose of determining credit,
5 placement, assessment of college readiness, or admission of a
6 pupil in a postsecondary educational institution inform a pupil in
7 grade 11 that he or she may request that the results from that
8 assessment be released to a postsecondary educational institution.

9 SEC. 3. Section 78213.5 is added to the Education Code, to
10 read:

11 78213.5. (a) (1) ~~The—Commencing with the 2007–08~~
12 ~~academic year, the Community College Early Assessment Pilot~~
13 ~~Program is hereby established, until January 1, 2012 established,~~
14 ~~for five years,~~ for the purpose of providing high school pupils
15 with an indicator of their readiness for ~~college transfer~~ level
16 English and mathematics at the end of grade 11 and allowing
17 high schools to work with pupils in grade 12 to elevate their
18 skills to that level. The program shall be administered by the
19 board of governors.

20 (2) In order to provide high school pupils with this indicator, a
21 community college participating in the program shall use, but not
22 necessarily be limited to, test results released to that college
23 pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 60641.

24 ~~Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 78213, the~~
25 (3) ~~Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 78213, the~~
26 ~~individual results of the California Standards Test and the~~
27 ~~California Standards Test (CST) as augmented pursuant to~~
28 ~~Section 60641 may be used to provide placement advice to~~
29 ~~diagnostic advice to prospective~~ community college students
30 participating in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot
31 Program.

32 (3) ~~The pilot program may include the development of~~
33 ~~indicators of readiness for associate-degree-level English and~~
34 ~~mathematics that are consistent with the associate degree~~
35 ~~standards adopted by the board of governors. This augmentation~~
36 ~~of the pilot program, if it is adopted, shall be made in~~
37 ~~consultation with the Academic Senate for the California~~
38 ~~Community Colleges.~~

39 (b) *The Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program*
40 *shall work in coordination with the State Department of*

Education on all Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program activities related to the STAR program. Activities impacting the STAR Program shall first be reviewed and, where necessary, approved by the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Section 60643. The Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program shall be responsible for all costs incurred in any additional activities that are part of the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program and that are related to the STAR program.

~~(b)~~

(c) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall select, from community college districts applying to participate in the program, institutions that agree to meet the requirements established for participation in the program. Community colleges, along with their feeder high schools, may participate in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program. In selecting community colleges and high schools for participation in the program, the chancellor shall give priority to colleges and schools from districts that are currently working with, or utilizing, data from the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS).

(d) The standards utilized by the California State University to assess readiness for transfer-level English and mathematics courses as expressed in the CST as augmented by the California State University, shall also be used for the purposes of this pilot program.

(e) (1) The pilot program may additionally include indicators of readiness for degree-applicable English and mathematics courses that are consistent with associate degree standards as adopted by the board of governors. Inclusion of these indicators of readiness within the pilot program shall be determined by the board of governors in consultation with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges.

(2) If the board of governors determines that the indicators described in paragraph (1) should be included in the pilot program, then, in furtherance of this purpose, CST items may be reviewed by any person charged by the board of governors with the implementation of the program, if that person agrees in writing, prior to the review of the CST, to maintain the

1 confidentiality of the CST and its items and that the evaluation of
2 these items shall be done in coordination with the State
3 Department of Education and the California State University to
4 ensure the security and the integrity of the CST and the test items
5 augmented by the California State University.

6 (f) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall
7 rely on the California Partnership for Achieving Student Success,
8 as identified in subdivision (d) of Provision (21) of Item
9 6870-101-001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2006 for the
10 collection and analysis of the results of the augmented CST for
11 the purpose of informing the development of curriculum to be
12 implemented during grade 12 to improve student success in
13 postsecondary education.

14 (g) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges
15 shall rely upon the Academic Senate for the California
16 Community Colleges in cooperation with participating high
17 schools, community colleges, and the California State University,
18 for the facilitation of the creation and implementation of
19 professional development opportunities to train high school
20 teachers in developing and implementing curriculum aligned to
21 the adopted transfer-level standards. These professional
22 development opportunities shall consist of community college
23 and California State University faculty mentors working directly
24 with grade 11 and 12 teachers to ensure alignment between the
25 curriculum and the adopted community college standards.

26 (h) At a minimum, the following requirements shall be met by
27 participating community colleges and high schools:

28 (1) Participating community colleges shall consult with the
29 Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges to
30 sequence their precollegiate level courses and transfer-level
31 courses in English and mathematics to the elementary and
32 secondary academic content standards adopted pursuant to
33 Section 60605.

34 (2) Participating high schools and community colleges shall
35 work together in coordination with the California State
36 University to develop and implement appropriate grade 12
37 curriculum to improve student readiness for postsecondary
38 education.

39 (3) Participating community colleges shall make college
40 outreach advisors available to participating feeder high schools

1 to assist students in making decisions that increase their college
2 readiness skills and increase the likelihood of pursuing a
3 postsecondary education.

4 (i) The California Community Colleges shall work with the
5 California Department of Education and the California State
6 University to develop a community college student notification
7 system that utilizes, to the extent possible, the current early
8 assessment system of the California State University for notifying
9 pupils of their grade 11 test results and apprising them of grade
10 12 academic enrichment opportunities. This system shall ensure
11 that all of the following occur:

12 (1) Prospective community college students receive
13 notification regarding their readiness for transfer-level English
14 and mathematics at a community college and grade 12 academic
15 enrichment opportunities available to pupils for strengthening
16 English and mathematics skills that will help them succeed in
17 college.

18 (2) Prospective community college pupils are informed that
19 this information is only an indicator of their readiness to take
20 transfer-level English and mathematics courses and has no
21 bearing on their eligibility to attend community college.

22 (3) Pupils are reassured that they are eligible to attend
23 community college.

24 (4) That the State Department of Education is not responsible
25 for funding any additional costs associated with implementing
26 this section.

27 ~~(e) The board of governors, relying on the Academic Senate~~
28 ~~for California Community Colleges, and in consultation with the~~
29 ~~California State University, shall accomplish both of the~~
30 ~~following:~~

31 ~~(1) Evaluate the California State University college readiness~~
32 ~~standards, for purposes of this pilot program, for college level~~
33 ~~English and mathematics courses in alignment with test items~~
34 ~~pursuant to Section 60641.~~

35 ~~(2) Determine whether augmentation of the CST, as developed~~
36 ~~by the California State University, is needed to meet Community~~
37 ~~College Early Assessment Pilot Program standards. The board of~~
38 ~~governors shall adopt either the CST or the version of the CST as~~
39 ~~augmented by the California State University as the common test~~

~~pupils are required to take if they choose to participate in the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.~~

~~(d) At a minimum, all of the following requirements shall be met by participating community colleges and high schools:~~

~~(1) Participating community colleges shall agree to use the entry college level English and mathematics standards utilized by the California State University as the basis on which to assess readiness for equivalent level community college courses.~~

~~(2) Participating community colleges shall map their precollegiate level courses and degree-applicable courses in English and mathematics to the California State University readiness standards.~~

~~(3) Participating high schools and community colleges shall work together in coordination with the California State University to develop and implement appropriate grade 12 curriculum.~~

~~(4) Participating community colleges shall make college outreach advisors available to participating feeder high schools to assist students in making decisions that increase their college readiness skills and increase the likelihood of pursuing a postsecondary education.~~

~~(e) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges shall enter into a contract with Cal-PASS for the completion of both of the following tasks:~~

~~(1) Collection and analysis of the results of the CST or the augmented CST for the purpose of guiding the development of curriculum to be implemented during grade 12 to improve student success in postsecondary education.~~

~~(2) In cooperation with participating high schools, community colleges, and the California State University, the facilitation of the creation and implementation of professional development opportunities to train high school teachers in developing and implementing curriculum aligned to the adopted entry college level standards. These professional development opportunities shall consist of community college and California State University faculty mentors working directly with grade 11 and 12 teachers to ensure alignment between the curriculum and the adopted community college standards.~~

~~(f) Participating community college districts shall work in coordination with California State University and participating~~

high schools to create a system for notifying pupils of their grade 11 test results and apprising them of senior year academic enrichment opportunities. This system shall ensure that all of the following occur:

(1) Pupils receive notification regarding their community college readiness for college level English and mathematics for entering students.

(2) Pupils are informed that this information is only an indicator of their college readiness and has no bearing on their eligibility to attend community college.

(3) Pupils are reassured that they are eligible to attend community college.

(g)

(j) To the extent that funding is provided specifically for this purpose in the annual Budget Act or in another statute, the board of governors shall provide a stipend to each participating community college and high school. It is the intent of the Legislature that this stipend, in conjunction with base funding received by the participating institutions, shall be adequate to cover all costs incurred by up to 25 community colleges and their respective feeder high schools under the Community College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

SEC. 4. Section 78213.7 is added to the Education Code, to read:

78213.7. (a) The California Partnership for Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) is hereby established as an independent research body whose work is aimed at improving student transition from one educational segment to the next and ensuring that students are prepared to succeed at each level of education. The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall oversee the efforts of Cal-PASS through annual evaluations of the finances, expenditures, and activities of Cal-PASS. In order to help facilitate these evaluations, the Director of Cal-PASS shall submit all of the following in a report to the board of governors by April 1 of each year:

(1) An accounting of all funding for Cal-PASS in the current fiscal year.

(2) A description of major Cal-PASS activities performed in the current fiscal year.

1 ~~(3) A listing of all institutions that are participating in the~~
2 ~~Cal-PASS program through memoranda of understanding or~~
3 ~~other formal agreements.~~

4 ~~(b) Annually, by May 1, the Chancellor of the California~~
5 ~~Community Colleges shall forward this report to the Legislature~~
6 ~~and the Department of Finance, as well as the assessment of the~~
7 ~~board of governors of the effectiveness of Cal-PASS and any~~
8 ~~recommendations for future changes to the program's activities,~~
9 ~~mission, and funding.~~

10 ~~SEC. 5.~~

11 ~~SEC. 4.~~ Section 78213.8 is added to the Education Code, to
12 read:

13 78213.8. (a) From funds provided in the annual Budget Act
14 for this purpose, the Chancellor of the California Community
15 Colleges shall contract with a ~~community college district~~ *entity*
16 *deemed by the chancellor to be reputable, independent, and*
17 *competent* to evaluate the effectiveness of the Community
18 College Early Assessment Pilot Program.

19 (b) *(1) No more than six months after the second*
20 *administration of the assessment to grade 11 pupils under Section*
21 *78213.5, the* ~~district~~ *entity* *contracted with pursuant to*
22 *subdivision (a) shall submit an interim evaluation report to the*
23 *Legislature, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the*
24 *Governor. By June 30, 2011, the* ~~district~~ *December 1, 2012, the*
25 *entity shall submit a final evaluation report to the Legislature and*
26 ~~the Governor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the~~
27 *Governor.*

28 *(2) The final evaluation of the Community College Early*
29 *Assessment Pilot Program shall, at a minimum and to the fullest*
30 *extent possible, call upon the expertise of community college*
31 *faculty and explore, but not necessarily be limited to, answers to*
32 *all of the following questions:*

33 *(A) Do students who participate in the pilot program and who*
34 *require additional skill development in English or mathematics,*
35 *or both, adjust their grade 12 course schedule to include English*
36 *or mathematics, or both, to better prepare for postsecondary*
37 *education?*

38 *(B) Is there a decrease in the total number of basic skills*
39 *courses that pilot program participants must complete before*

1 *entering degree applicable courses and transfer-level courses at*
2 *community colleges?*

3 *(C) Are the indicators of readiness for transfer-level courses*
4 *utilized in the pilot program appropriate and accurate indicators*
5 *of readiness for degree applicable and transfer level courses?*

6 (c) The Office of the Legislative Analyst shall review the final
7 report submitted under subdivision (b), and, on or before ~~August~~
8 ~~31, 2011~~ *February 1, 2013*, shall make recommendations
9 regarding whether the Community College Early Assessment
10 Pilot Program should be continued, modified, expanded, or
11 discontinued.